

REMARKS

All allowable but objected to claims have been rendered independent in form. All rejected claims have been either cancelled, or made dependent on allowable claims. To facilitate allowance of the application, applicants do not traverse the substance of any rejection.

Amendments

Claims 6, 37, 59-86, 88, and 91 have been cancelled. Allowed independent claims 87, 89, and 90 remain as previously presented. Claims which were indicated as allowable if written in independent form, have been recast in independent form or made dependent on an allowable newly independent claim. Particularly, claims 14, 16, 17, 39, 43, 51, 53, and 54 are now independent claims, reciting all of the elements of the independent claims upon which they formerly depended. Claim 6, which had been indicated as allowable, has been represented as amended claim 1, by adding its elements to independent claim 1. All remaining claims have been made dependent on allowable now-independent claims.

The antecedent basis of claims 19, 21, 55, 56, and 57 has been corrected. The imperfection had not previously been noted by applicants or the examiner, and so it had not been previously amended. This amendment puts the claims in better condition for appeal or allowance.

The Rejection of Claims 59-85 and 91 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 59-85 and 91 are rejected as containing new matter, i.e., subject matter not described in the application as filed. These claims are canceled, rendering this rejection moot. Applicants retain the right to pursue these claims without prejudice in a succeeding application.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 10-13, 15, 18, 20, 24, 37-38, 40-42, 47-50, 52, 56, 58, 86, and 88 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, 10-13, 15, 18, 20, 24, 37-38, 40-42, 47-50, 52, 56, 58, 86, and 88 are rejected as unpatentable over U.S. 6,498,013 (Velculescu) in view of Dunn. Without prejudice to their further examination in a succeeding application, claims 37, 86, and 88 have been canceled. Remaining claims have been amended to overcome the rejection by either (a) rendering them dependent on a non-rejected claim or (b) by incorporating all limitations of an allowable claim into them. In the latter category the recitation of claim 6 has been incorporated into claim 1, rendering it allowable. Claims 3-5, 10-13, 15, 18, 20, and 24 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore should also be allowable for the same reasons as (now canceled) claim 6 was allowable. In the first category, claims 38, 52, 56, and 58 are dependent on allowable claim 51; claims 40-42 are dependent on allowable claim 39; and claims 47-50 are dependent on allowable claim 43. It is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in allowable condition for the same reasons as the claims previously indicated to be allowable.

A speedy allowance of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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